

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-03 AID-07 CIAE-00 EB-05 FRB-01

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-01 OPIC-01 SPC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-03

NSC-04 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 STR-04 DRC-01 /109 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6607

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GUATEMALA FOR AGATT - DEPARTMENT FOR USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, HO

SUBJ: HONDURAN MEASURES FOR LABELING AND CONTROL OF
FOOD PRODUCTS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1085 AND TEGUCIGALPA A-19 (2/22/74)

1. COMMATT SPOKE WITH DR. LUIS MUNGUIA, DIRECTOR OF FOOD CONTROL OFFICE OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH, ON MARCH 19 REGARDING MINISTRY'S INTENTIONS TO ENFORCE LABELING REGULATIONS (FOR COPY SEE TEGUCIGALPA A-19). MUNGUIA INDICATED FLEXIBILITY IN SOME ASPECTS OF PROGRAM AND WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS IN RESOLVING COMPLIANCE PROBLEMS. REALIZE CAN ONLY PROCEED SLOWLY, HE SAID.

2. MUNGUIA STATED THAT REQUIREMENT THAT LABELS APPEAR IN SPANISH NOT UNREASONABLE AS MANY U.S. MANUFACTURERS ALREADY USING SPANISH LABELS. SUGGESTED OTHER COMPANIES CONSIDER APPLYING ADHESIVE LABEL ON TOP OF ENGLISH ONE
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GIVING THE REQUIRED SPANISH INFORMATION; ADDED THAT

HONDURAN IMPORTERS OF U.S. PRODUCTS MAY TAKE THIS ACTIVITY UPON THEMSELVES; IN ANY EVENT U. S. COMPANY AND LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD GET TOGETHER ON POSSIBLE SOLUTION OF LANGUAGE PROBLEM. HE SAID MINISTRY DOES NOT EXPECT IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS MEASURE BUT WANTS TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE PLANS TO COMPLY WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME, EVEN UP TO A YEAR.

3. WEIGHT OR VOLUME OF CONTENTS CAN BE GIVEN IN EITHER METRIC OR U. S. SYSTEM.

4. NOT NECESSARY THAT LABEL CARRY NAME OF HONDURAN REPRESENTATIVE OR DISTRIBUTOR OR THE GOH SANITARY REGISTRATION NUMBER. IT IS NECESSARY, HOWEVER, THAT IMPORTED PRODUCTS BE REGISTERED WITH THE FOOD CONTROL OFFICE, AND THAT THE REGISTRATION INCLUDE PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE EXTENDED BY THE SANITARY AUTHORITIES (E.G. THE FDA) OF THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN ATTESTING TO THE PRODUCT'S PURITY AND FREEDOM OF SALE. THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BAPAUTHECTICATED BY A HONDURAN CONSUL AND BE PRESENTED EITHER IN SPANISH OR WITH A SPANISH TRANSLATION.

5. DR. MUNGUA STRESSED THAT MINISTRY NOT SEEKING DISCOVER SECRET PROCESSING FORMULA, BUT DOES WANT CONSUMING PUBLIC TO KNOW CONTENTS OF PRODUCTS PURCHASED. HE ADDED THAT FOR TIME BEING ORDERS FOR FOOD PRODUCTS PLACED WITH FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS ARE BEING APPROVED AS LONG AS THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN REGISTERED WITH HIS OFFICE, DESPITE NONCOMPLIANCE WITH OTHER REQUIREMENTS. INTENTION, HE SAID, IS TO MOVE SLOWLY IN A REASONABLE MANNER TO CARRY OUT PROGRAM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT SHOULD RECOMMEND WHEN APPROACHED BY CONCERNED U. S. COMPANIES THAT THEY CONTACT DIRECTLY OR HAVE THEIR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT DR. LUIS MUNGUA, DIRECCION GENERAL DE SALUD PUBLICA, DEPARTAMENTO DE CONTROL DE ALIMENTOS, TEGUCIGALPA, FOR ASSISTANCE IN WORKING OUT SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. HE IS SERIOUS ABOUT THE PROGRAM BUT EVIDENCED A WILLINGNESS TO MOVE GRADUALLY IN IMPLEMENTATION.

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